



# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

BILL NELSON  
FLORIDA

May 25, 2016

Robert A. McDonald  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue NW, Room 1000  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary McDonald,

I am writing in support of the recently re-submitted grant application for the Copas Veterans Nursing Home in St. Lucie County by the Florida Department of Veteran Affairs (FDVA).

FDVA was previously awarded a VA grant to construct the Copas Veterans Nursing Home. The nursing home was to be built in St. Lucie County, an area in which veterans in need of nursing home care are underserved. However, in the interim between grant award and start of construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) changed the criteria to which veterans nursing homes must be built, in order to bring them in line with new Community Living Center (CLC) standards.

Now that Veterans Nursing Homes are required to be built to VA CLC standards, the Copas Veterans Nursing Home project faces a greater shortfall between grant funds awarded and costs of construction to the new standards.

I am hopeful that FDVA's re-submitted application will be reviewed in a timely manner, and that a new grant will be approved so that construction on the facility can start as soon as possible. Providing the appropriate funding for this project will allow FDVA to achieve our shared goal of providing care to veterans in an underserved part of Florida.

I look forward to updates from your staff regarding the consideration of grant applications for construction funding for this project and Veterans Nursing Homes nationwide. Please do not hesitate to contact Bale Dalton in my office at [bale\\_dalton@billnelson.senate.gov](mailto:bale_dalton@billnelson.senate.gov) or (202) 224-5274 with additional questions. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,